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25X1 1. Between mid-January and mid-February 1950 the bulk of the Chinese Communist forces which invaded Szechuan were moving down the Yangtze by junk. Officers of some of the units stated that they were en route to participate in the assault on Hainan, others said Taiwan. Troops travelled as units with full equipment, including pack artillery.

25X1 2. The consensus of "several hundred" conversations [redacted] en route to Chengtu indicated that the people feel that the new regime is worse than the Kuomintang in its treatment of rural populations. They particularly complained against exorbitant and confiscatory taxation and brutalities in tax collection. In Szechuan, Hupeh and Hunan peasants are leaving the land to join bandit gangs.

25X1 3. Following the occupation of Szechuan Chinese Communist forces made heavy levies of grain on the peasantry for the forces' own support and for rations for troops in Central and East China. The peasants were aided by Nationalist troop remnants in resisting the levies with force. Early in February 1950 a series of battles were fought near Chungking, and the Communists suffered 15,000 casualties in a single engagement [redacted] 25X1

25X1 4. Travel on provincial highways and waterways is only possible with an armed escort. The Communists occupy the major cities and towns and have only a slight hold on the countryside. It is estimated [redacted] that at least half of the province is in the hands of peasantry and partisan bands. The latter are partially composed of HU Tsung-nan's organized guerrillas.

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